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## DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

*A California State Agency*

October 5, 2016

Rich Satkowski  
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Satkowski:

**Chair**  
Randy Fiorini

**Members**  
Aja Brown  
Frank C. Damrell, Jr.  
Patrick Johnston  
Mary Piepho  
Susan Tatayon  
Ken Weinberg

**Executive Officer**  
Jessica R. Pearson

**Re: An Independent Peer Review Report for the Delta Science Program on the DWR report "On Estimating Net Delta Outflow (NDO): Approaches to Estimating NDO in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta"**

The Delta Science Program is pleased to present the enclosed review report entitled, "An Independent Peer Review Report for the Delta Science Program on the DWR report On Estimating Net Delta Outflow (NDO): Approaches to Estimating NDO in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta". The transmittal of this report fulfills a request from the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) for the Delta Science Program to facilitate a peer review of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) report on appropriate methodologies for determining NDO.

The overall goal of this peer review was to evaluate proposed methodological improvements to the estimation of net Delta outflow to inform the State Water Board's decisions regarding the formulation of regulatory parameters to manage net Delta outflow. The review highlighted the challenges and importance of estimating net Delta outflow, especially during drought conditions. The review included discussion of the report submitted by the DWR, "On Estimating Net Delta Outflow (NDO): Approaches to Estimating NDO in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta," other reference material supplied with the Independent Peer Review Report, and the personal knowledge and other available references that the panel felt were relevant. Although simple in concept, measurement of NDO continues to be one of the most complex and difficult metrics to quantify as is described in the DWR Report and the Independent Peer Review Report.

The independent review panel consisted of Dr. William Fleenor (Chair and Lead Author), Dr. Peter Goodwin, Dr. Nancy Monsen, and Ms. Cathy Ruhl. These panel members were selected

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*"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."*

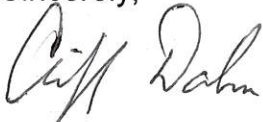
*– CA Water Code §85054*

for their expertise and reputation concerning hydrodynamics, ecohydraulics, transport modeling, and flow monitoring.

The subject report "On Estimating Net Delta Outflow (NDO): Approaches to Estimating NDO in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta" can be found on the Delta Science Program web page (<http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/events/science-program-review/science-review-report-estimating-net-delta-outflow-ndo-approaches>). The Delta Science Program was pleased to assist in the process of evaluating the approaches to estimating NDO in the Delta with an open and transparent scientific peer review.

If there are questions about the independent review panel's report or the review process, please contact Nicole Stern, Environmental Scientist, Delta Science Program, at (916) 322-6545.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cliff Dahm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cliff" and last name "Dahm" clearly distinguishable.

Cliff Dahm, Ph.D.  
Lead Scientist, Delta Science Program  
Delta Stewardship Council

Enclosure

cc: Diane Riddle, State Water Resources Control Board  
Matt Holland, State Water Resources Control Board